

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Confirmation No.: 9700

Edward G. SHIFRIN et al.

Date: September 11, 2007

Serial No.: 10/561,354

Group Art Unit: 3733

Filed: November 27, 2001

Examiner: Jerry L. CUMBERLEDGE

For: STERNAL CLOSURE SYSTEM, METHOD AND APPARATUS THEREFOR

VIA EFS-WEB

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Sir:

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, of the above-identified application.

The RCE fee of \$395.00 (~~\$790 - large entity~~/**\$395 - small entity**) and any extension/suspension fee, is submitted herewith.

In the event the actual fee is greater than the payment submitted or is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the under-payment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

If this communication is filed after a shortened statutory time period in said pending application had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

☒ If checked, please enter and consider the Amendment previously filed on August 15, 2007 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

☐ If checked, an Amendment and/or Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) and/or IDS is/are enclosed.

☐ If checked, please consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief and Reply Brief previously submitted.

☐ If checked, suspension of action is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months (3 maximum). A petition fee in the amount of \$130.00 is enclosed.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
EFS FILING SYSTEM
ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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